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SENSITIVE  
SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [PREL](#) [AF](#) [PK](#) [MR](#)  
SUBJECT: THE PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE WAY FORWARD IN  
AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN

REF: STATE 122731

¶1. (SBU) Ambassador drew on Ref talking points to demarche Foreign Minister Naha Mint Mouknass on December 1, 2009. Ambassador noted further that Mauritania was a country that could fully appreciate the importance of countering extremism while fostering economic development.

¶2. (SBU) Minister Mouknass listened attentively and assured Ambassador that she would transmit our message to President Aziz right away and expressed her appreciation for an approach in advance of President Obama's announcement. Ambassador noted that as an active member of the OIC and the Arab League and a country that concerned itself with developments in the region, Mauritania's understanding and support were important to the U.S.  
BOULWARE